

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 09/836,236

Contrary to the Examiner's position, the YAMADA '359 reference does not qualify as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) because it is not a patent granted on an application for patent "by another." Rather, the inventive entities of the instant application and the YAMADA '359 reference are the same: Hisao Yamada, Mitsuyuki Tsurumi, and Kazunori Nigorikawa.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

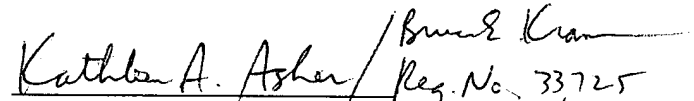
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


Kathleen A. Asher
Registration No. 43,194

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